

Good cooking characterizes Smith's style

By NELL E. PERRY
Special to the Chronicle

Gladys D. Smith can't even tell you how many people she has cooked for during the last 34 years. But the people who have eaten her fine cooking sure remember her macaroni and cheese, her fried chicken and her honest-to-goodness mashed potatoes.

Mrs. Smith, 60, retired recently as cook for Brookridge Retirement Community, a facility operated by Baptist Retirement Homes of North Carolina, Inc., and located of Bethabara Road in Northwest Winston-Salem.

She began her work with the Homes at its facility on Reynolds Park Road, the former Hayes Home that was closed when Brookridge was opened two years ago. At first, she worked in the dining room and washed dishes, she said.

"I've done a little bit of it all, I guess," Mrs. Smith said, modestly. Her supervisors, however, are quick to praise her work.

"Over the 34 years, she influenced other employees as a positive influence due to her stability, longevity and dependability," said Ruth Lowe, the director of Brookridge, who originally supervised Mrs. Smith as dietary coordi-

nator. "She took pride in her work and strived for the best quality for each meal, whether the food was for residents, guests, or trustees."

Mrs. Smith was at work no matter what the weather and encouraged the remainder of the staff, Mrs. Lowe said. "Oh, and everybody knows her for her fried chicken — her 'gospel bird,'" Mrs. Lowe said.

Mrs. Smith looks forward to spending time with her family, traveling ("if I have enough money") and resting. She has four children and ten grandchildren. She is the widow of John Henry Smith and a member of Mars Hill Baptist Church.



Gladys D. Smith

It's all Yale's fault

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having chosen another, then married someone else — of another color no less — decided to get even. That's a thought. Especially since some black women took exception to Thomas' white wife.

But the whole thing just doesn't make a lot of sense. If Thomas was as bad as Hill says, why did she leave her job at the Department of Education and follow Thomas to the EEOC office — of all places? And why ask for a letter of reference, as it is alleged?

And why did she stay in touch with the creep over all these many years?

And also why did she invite the pervert to speak to the University of Oklahoma?

And why would you wait a decade later to bring up this matter — at the eleventh hour?

But, it's too late for all that. Now it's brother against sister on the front page of every newspaper in this country — and both of them are graduates of Yale Law School. Yale graduates against each other — which is about the only thing that makes sense in this while sordid mess. It's all Yale's fault!

This is exactly what happens to black folks when they go to a place like Yale. They lose their sense of good judgment.

Used to be when black folks went to Yale they would come back ready to fight for civil rights — now they come back all screwed up, fighting each other like they were white folks.

Apparently Hill had been so isolated at Yale that she didn't have the good sense to leave Thomas alone — that she should go one way and let him go another. I've heard about this skull and bones thing. But, really isn't this going a bit too far? Is the sister going to follow him to his grave?

Folks have been speculating for years about black folks going to them ivy league schools. They leave black and they come back damned minds.

Take Stephen Carter. He's a Thomas supporter, a Yale graduate, and author of the recent bestseller, "Confessions of An Affirmative Action Baby" in which he questions the validity of affirmative action. (Well maybe not all bad things happen to you when you go to Yale). Carter is said to have offered that Hill is a credible person.

There is Professor Drew Saunders Days, who opposed the Thomas nomination but agreed that as a graduate of Yale, Thomas "was imminently qualified to hold the position of associate justice of the supreme court!"

I say to all black folks in America. Stop it right now. We don't need anymore black folks to go to Yale. My children will not go to Yale.

I will put that pennant back into the closet. We all need to stop going to Yale. Right now!

Black folks need to go to our

own schools. Stop sending your kids to Yale! Look what happens to them.

But seriously folks, do you really think that this kind of breach would have occurred had the parties — Thomas and Hill attended an historically black institution — say Howard? One wonders . . . doesn't one.

Look I'm just trying to make sense of all this and right now about the only thing I can say is that mommy don't let your children grow up to be "Elays," they act just too damned crazy.

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Frances Lewis

Frances Lewis, at 77 years of age, is still very active in her community. She is a member of Northside Baptist Church. Ms. Lewis was employed at Hanes Knitting Mill for 7 years and Hanes Hosiery Mill for 13 years.

She is the mother of one, a son Richard. She has 4 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Richard describes her as "one of a kind." He says that "to know her is to love her."

Ms. Lewis believes in following the credo of putting others first.

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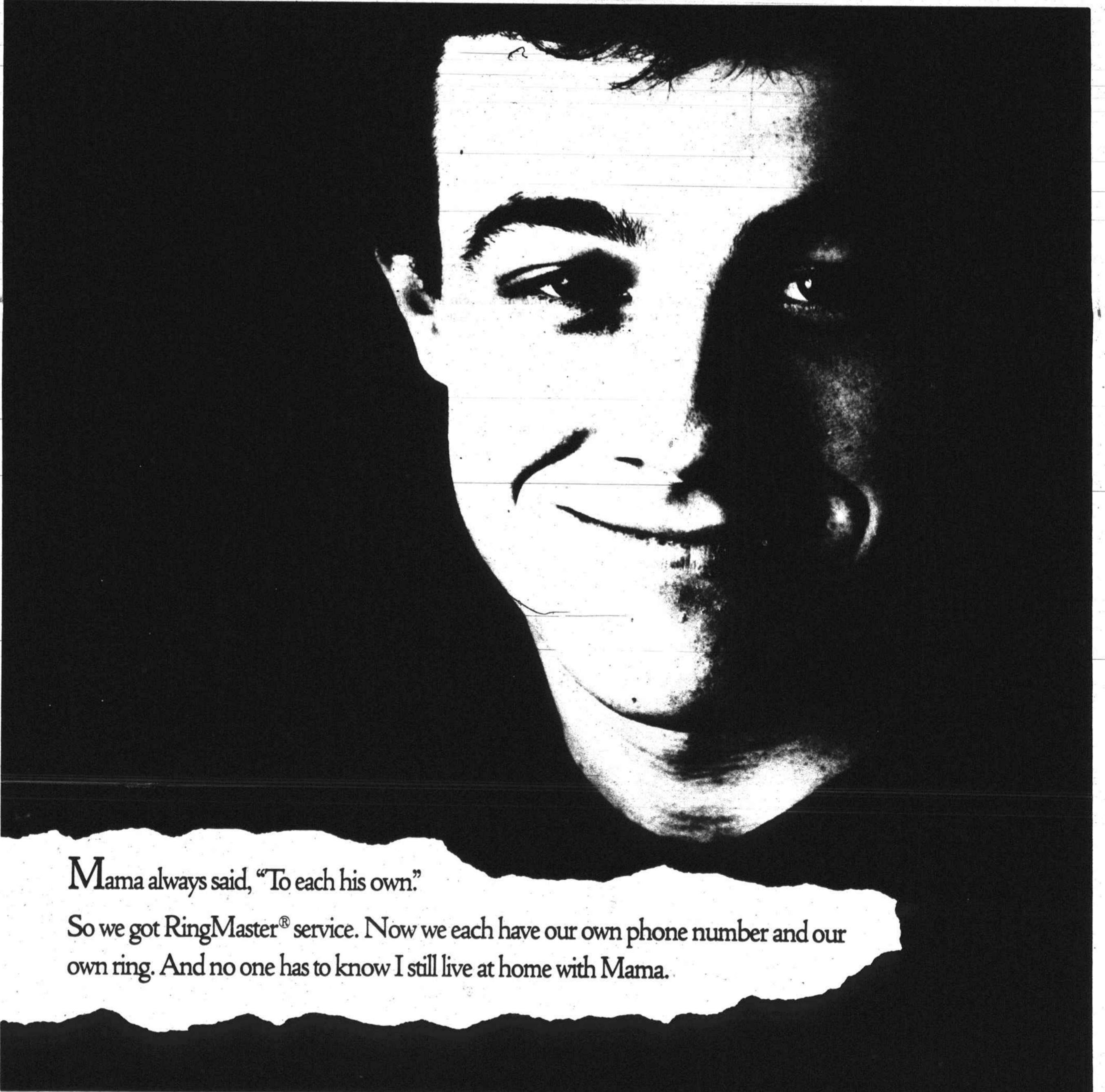
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